

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 RYAN KARNOSKI, et al.,

11 Plaintiffs,

12 v.

13 DONALD J TRUMP, et al.,

14 Defendants.
15

CASE NO. C17-1297 MJP

ORDER PROVIDING NOTICE OF
THE APPOINTMENT OF A
SPECIAL MASTER

16 THIS MATTER comes before the Court *sua sponte*. In light of the Parties' ongoing
17 dispute regarding the 35,000 to 50,000 documents over which Defendants have asserted the
18 deliberative process privilege, the Parties' inability to resolve disputes without Court
19 intervention, and the recent General Order closing the Courthouse, the Court finds that no judge
20 can conduct this discovery review in a timely manner. The Court therefore intends to appoint a
21 special master to oversee selected discovery issues in this matter. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 53. The
22 attorney will bill monthly using his or her standard rate. Invoices will be paid 50%-50% by
23 Plaintiffs and the Defendants within 30 days. Special master expenses may be submitted for
24

1 consideration as a taxable cost at the conclusion of the case. The Court ORDERS any party that
2 opposes such appointment to file a brief not to exceed three pages no later than March 31, 2020.
3 The Parties may also comment on the scope of the special master's review and suggest possible
4 special masters, but the candidates must be admitted to the Western District of Washington and
5 meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53.

6
7 The clerk is ordered to provide copies of this order to all counsel.

8 Dated March 24, 2020.

9
10 

11 Marsha J. Pechman
12 United States District Judge
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24